

## Clean Version of Amended Claims

Claims 1 through 21 (cancelled)

22.(new) An apparatus for use in installing a carpet tack strip on a support surface adjacent a substantially vertical surface, comprising:

a body comprising a longitudinal reference axis, a lower end, and an upper end longitudinally(axially) spaced from the lower end, and a longitudinally (axially) oriented body aperture extending through the body, along said reference axis and between the lower and upper ends of said body, said body aperture having lower and upper portions corresponding to the lower and upper ends of the body, wherein said lower body aperture portion includes a carpet tack accommodating portion disposed toward said lower end of said body, said tack accommodating portion adapted to closely receive as carpet tack strip tack therein;

a striker pin disposed in the longitudinal body aperture, reciprocally moveable along said reference axis and relative to said body, wherein said striker pin comprises a shaft, an upper part of which is disposed within at least the second upper portion of said body aperture, and a strikable impact head interconnected with said shaft extending beyond said body aperture and a lower part disposed in the lower portion of said body aperture adjacent the carpet tack accommodating portion; and

a tack strip track assembly disposed adjacent the lower end of said body, and comprising a horizontally disposed foot plate having a base portion for engaging the support surface, the base portion having disposed therein a tack strip accommodating guide channel into which said carpet tack accommodating portion opens, said channel being disposed generally parallel to the vertical surface adjacent which the tack strip is to be installed, the base portion including a spacer portion disposed adjacent the channel and extending laterally a predetermined distance therefrom in respect of said tack accommodating portion, to an extent terminating in an outer planar surface generally parallel to the guide channel for engaging the vertical surface and laterally spacing the track assembly and body therefrom, wherein the predetermined distance between the carpet tack accommodating portion and the outer planar surface of the track assembly is such as to position the carpet tack strip in the preferred nailing position with respect to the vertical surface;

whereby said track assembly is oriented with the body aperture such that the carpet tack strip is engaged by the installing apparatus by means of the carpet tack being received in the tack accommodating portion for positioning of the tack strip whereafter impacting the striking head, the striking pin reciprocates to transit the carpet tack accommodating portion into the guide channel, driving the carpet tack into the support surface.

23.(new) The apparatus of claim 22 further comprising a shock-absorbing body extension of resilient material mounted on said upper end of said body, wherein said body extension is coaxial with the longitudinal reference axis and continuous with the body to a terminal end, the rubber body extension having a longitudinal aperture through which said striker pin extends.

24.(new) The apparatus of claim 23 further comprising a striker retaining washer disposed in the terminal end of the body extension, coaxially of the longitudinal axis, for retaining the striker pin.

25.(new) The apparatus of claim 24 further comprising a coiled spring disposed about the shaft of the striker pin, intermediate said washer and the striker pin head.

26.(new) The apparatus of claim 22 further comprising a handle connected to the body intermediate the lower and upper ends thereof, extending substantially perpendicularly outwardly from the body.

27.(new) The apparatus of claim 26 further comprising a handle extension comprised of a shock absorbing resilient material, disposed outwardly and substantially continuously with said handle.

28.(new) The apparatus of claim 27 wherein said handle extension terminates in a balancing foot for user contact during operation of the apparatus.